

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 SAM-01 AID-05 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 FEAE-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 /096 W

----- 095746

R 280945Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3293

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 0229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV AO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. ON FEBRUARY 26 I CALLED ON THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, NGOLA KABANGU (FNLA), WHO LAUNCHED INTO A STEMWINDING ANTI-COMMUNIST TIRADE. HE SAID THAT THE FNLA IS THE STRONGEST POLITICAL AND MILITARY FORCE IN ANGOLA AND THAT THE MPLA HAS NO FUTURE. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS GOING ALL OUT TO HELP MPLA, THAT MPLA HAS A LOT OF ARMED CHILDREN, THAT IT IS AN UNDISCIPLINED FORCE, AND THAT ITS TACTIC IS TO CREATE HAVOC IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT ELECTIONS. THEY SHALL NOT PREVAIL, KABANGU SAID. HE IS CONVINCED THAT FNLA WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL ANY CONCEIVABLE DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE HELP OF UNITA.

2. THE MINISTER SAID HE IS CONFUSED ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHY WE DID NOT HELP ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE FNLA, THAT STAND AS BULWARKS AGAINST COMMUNISM. HE EXPLAINED TO ME, AS OTHERS HERE HAVE DONE, THE ETHNOCENTRIC VIEW OF THINGS THAT HAS ANGOLA AT THE CENTER OF STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION. ANGOLA, HE SAID, IS THE MOST STRATEGIC POINT IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. A HOSTILE POWER HERE WOULD HAVE SOUTH AFRICA UNDER ITS GUNS; ZAIRE WOULD BECOME DESTABILIZED, AS WOULD

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MOST OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. HE REPEATED THE BELIEF THAT

FNLA WILL WIN OUT, BUT HE SUGGESTED THAT A LITTLE MORE UNDER-  
STANDING FROM THE U.S. WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

3. I TOLD HIM OUR POSITION IS ONE OF IMPARTIALITY AND NONINTER-  
VENTION, A POLICY WHICH SEEMED TO ME, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE HAD  
JUST DESCRIBED, VERY WELL SUITED TO ANGOLAN REALITIES. IF FNLA IS  
DESTINED TO WIN, I ASKED, WHAT NEED HAS IT OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE  
UNITED STATES. WHY RUN THE RISK OF MORE ALLEGATIONS THAT FNLA IS  
IN THE POCKET OF THE U.S.? KABANGU REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT TALKING  
ABOUT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, BUT RATHER PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS  
IN THE U.S. THAT COULD USEFULLY PROVIDE SUCH ITEMS AS VEHICLES  
AND OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED TO HELP FNLA ORGANIZE AND PROSELYTIZE.  
HE MENTIONED THAT MPLA IS IN THE PROCESS OF BUYING ONE HUNDRED LAD  
ROVERS WITH MONEY SUPPLIED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PORTUGUESE  
COMMUNIST PARTY.

4. KABANGU SAID THAT GULF OIL COMPANY MADE A BIG MISTAKE. HE  
CLAIMED TO HAVE PROOF IN THE FORM OF A TELEGRAPHIC DEPOSIT OF  
FUNDS THAT GULF OIL A "FEW MONTHS AGO" GAVE MPLA A "A LARGE SUM  
OF MONEY." HE REALIZES, HE ADDED, THAT GULF DID IT BECAUSE OF  
MPLA THREATS TO DAMAGE ITS INSTALLATIONS, OR HARM ITS PEOPLE, BUT,  
KABANGU ADDED, IT WAS A VERY RASH THING TO DO. MPLA LONG HAD THE  
REPUTATION OF BEING THE STRONGEST FORCE IN ANGOLA AND MANY PEOPLE  
DID NOT REALIZE, HE SAID, THAT IT WAS ALL PROPAGANDA, WITH NO  
SUBSTANCE TO IT. HE CLAIMED THAT MPLA IS EXTORTING MONEY FROM  
OTHER BUSINESSES, AS WELL. FOR ITS PART, HE EMPHASIZED, FNLA  
HAS NOT PUT THE BITE ON ANYONE FOR A CENT, NOT GULF AND NOT  
THE DIAMOND COMPANY. AFTER ALL, SAID KABANGU, THE DIAMOND  
COMPANY IS PART OF ANGOLA'S PATRIMONY AND MUST BE PRESERVED AND  
RESPECTED. I SAID HOW FORTUNATE HE WAS NOT TO HAVE THE STIGMA  
OF FORCED CONTRIBUTIONS AND HELP FROM ABROAD. HE POINTED OUT THAT  
FNLA RECEIVED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FROM TWO FOREIGN SOURCES,  
ZAIRE AND TUNISIA. AS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ANGOLAN BUSINESSES,  
HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE POLITICAL PARTIES CANNOT EXACT  
TRIBUTE, THE GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY HAS EVERY RIGHT TO DO SO.

5. KABANGU SAID THAT FNLA WILL NOT PRECIPITATE AN ARMED CONFLICT.  
I MENTIONED THAT A NUMBER OF FNLA PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME THAT IF  
MPLA DOES NOT STOP ITS PROVOCATIONS FNLA MIGHT JUST HAVE TO TAKE  
OVER POLICE AND INTERNAL SECURITY FUNCTIONS IN THE COUNTRY.  
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KABANGU SAID THAT HAS HAPPENED IN A NUMBER OF PLACES AND MAY  
WELL OCCUR IN THE FUTURE, BUT THAT FNGA HAS NO INTENTION OF PROV-  
OKING A CIVIL WAR.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUANDA 00229

6. COMMENT: KABANGU MAY NOT HAVE MEANT TO DO SO, BUT HE LEFT THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS THINKING IN TERMS OF A CONTRIBUTION FROM GULF AND OTHER FIRMS OPERATING IN ANGOLA. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT NON-INTERFERENCE IS THE BEST PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POLICY. IF FNLA AND UNITA WERE IN SERIOUS FINANCIAL STRAITS AND IN A WEAK POLITICAL POSITION, THERE MIGHT BE SOME ADVANTAGE IN ACCEDING TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, BUT THEY ARE NOT. THE ONLY ARGUMENT BE MADE IN FAVOR OF ASSISTANCE TO ONE OR MORE GROUPS NOW IS THAT THEY MAY REMEMBER THEIR FRIENDS. I DOUBT U.S. FIRMS NEED HAVE FEAR ON THAT SCORE. A VALID ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE THAT THE U.S. IS ALREADY THOUGHT TO BE FINANCING FNLA, WHY WORRY ABOUT THE MATTER? I WORRY THAT ONCE WE START GIVING IN WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO SATISFY DEMANDS. THIS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR PRIVATE FIRMS. WE HAVE A PROPER ROLE TO PLAY AND THAT IS IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AFTER INDEPENDENCE, OR BEFORE, IF THERE IS SOME MEANS BY WHICH WE CAN HELP. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SHAPED UP YET, BUT OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD SURFACE BEFORE LONG. SOME OF THE FUNDS AND EXPERTISE CANNOT HELP BUT BENEFIT FNLA AND UNITA.

7. I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT TALK WITH GULF ABOUT KABANGU'S ALLEGATION; THE COMPANY WILL DENY IT. IF IT IS TRUE, I AM SURE GULF AND FNLA WILL FIND EACH OTHER BEFORE TOO LONG.  
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